



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

**FEB 08 2002**

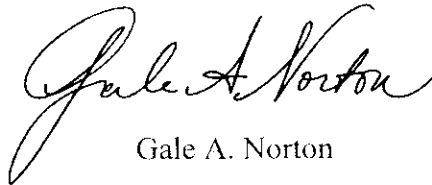
Honorable Spencer Abraham  
Secretary of Energy  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Department of the Interior has reviewed the final environmental impact statement for the Geologic Repository for the Disposal of Spent Nuclear Fuel and High-Level Radioactive Waste at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada. We have appreciated the opportunity to serve as a participant in this process from the beginning. In our opinion, the final statement appropriately portrays the potential environmental impacts of the project. We believe that it is suitable for further decision making in this important effort.

If DOE recommends the site for a geologic repository for the disposal of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste and all requirements of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act are met with respect to this project, this Department will continue to assist DOE on any outstanding issues where we have jurisdiction and expertise. If any additional environmental analyses become necessary, we would appreciate the opportunity to review them.

Sincerely,



Gale A. Norton